

HAMATEUR CHATTER

A publication of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs – since 1917

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Page 1

February 2009

President's Letter

Is it Spring yet? I should know better than to ask that. Still, the snow is gone from the lawn, and that makes me think about Field Day. Just over four months away, but the time to be planning is upon us. And the minimum planning you need to do is write down the date, June 27th and 28th, and the location, Pioneer Village.

Dave KA9WXN did a great job again on his presentation on Digital TV. There were many questions answered. Now it appears that Congress has decided to push back the date until June, but TV stations can decide to switch over earlier, and I won't be surprised if many do. I found one comment particularly interesting: it appears a lot of people have been putting up with poor reception, due mostly to poor antennas. You can lower your expectations to make up for a poor analog signal, but if you fall below that minimum level with a digital signal, you won't get a thing. Dave also was brave enough to volunteer to fill one of our open Board positions!

Superfest is coming, sooner than Field Day, so I better mention that as well: April 3rd and 4th at AES. If you are planning on attending, talk to Mike KC9CMT about when you can take a turn at the club table. No selling is required, just be willing to sit around and talk (which is what most of you do at Superfest anyway). Be nice to Mike, by the way, he is responsible for the return of refreshments to club meetings.

Upcoming meeting topics: DSTAR, automatic antenna tuners, ham radio web sites and internet resources. Let us know if you have any

ideas about what you'd like to hear. The MRAC-W9RH Yahoo group would be an ideal place for that.

If you get a chance to participate in our club nets, make sure to mention the meeting dates and times; everybody checking in might know but remember the lurkers too. See you on the 26th!

73 de Howard Parks, AB9FH

Board Meeting Minutes

January 26th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM

The minutes were read. Mark AB9CD noted that the missing part did not belong to the SoftRock kit purchased by the club. Al KC9IJJ moved to accept the amended minutes, and Brian K9LCQ seconded. Motion passed. The treasurer read the reports from November and December; Al KC9IJJ moved to accept both, and Brian K9LCQ seconded. This motion passed.

Dave Shank KA9WXN will be speaking on DTV in January, and has expressed interest in a program on D-Star as well. No firm date has been set for Jerry K9HXA to give a program on automated antenna tuners; March or April is most likely. The SoftRock kit presentation will likely not be ready for a while yet. 'Websites II' is set for February unless a better program turns up.

Regarding the archives, Mark AB9CD suggested the board pick a date to review a cross-section of the materials and set some guidelines regarding which types of documents to keep

and which to throw out, then set a separate date for volunteers to scan all documents and sort them based on the guidelines set by the board. Howard AB9FH agreed, and said he would e-mail some dates for the board to choose from (probably second or third week of February). The secretary stated that board meeting minutes are being electronically formatted and will be posted on yahoo groups.

Currently, the phone bill is being forwarded to the treasurer's house. Following discussion regarding the location of the post office box, the president moved to authorize Mark AB9CD to move the club's post office box to Brown Deer if a box is available. Mark AB9CD seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition.

The board moved to the topic of electronic discussions and votes. Mark AB9CD stated he would write a proposed by-law change that would allow electronic meetings and votes to be conducted in the same manner as face-to-face meetings. Also concerning the by-laws, concern was expressed that the revision agreed upon in August had not yet occurred. Howard AB9FH said he would make the necessary changes and send a version to the board for approval.

Kudos were given to Brian K9LCQ for his work on the newsletter. Howard AB9FH hoped to speak to people regarding empty club positions before the Thursday meeting.

A local ham is working on a Morse code event at Discovery World. The club will not be getting involved, due to the short amount of time before it takes place, but the board agreed it was an idea worth bringing up again at a later date.

There was some discussion on how to design and produce a club QSL card.

Mike KC9CMT has volunteered to bring refreshments to Thursday's meeting.

Expenses for Field Day 2009 were discussed, and a limit set when the club budget is made.

No progress made on the RAIN report.

It was noted there was currently no club coordinated for Superfest; on a related topic, the board discussed getting a computer for the club, but no action was taken.

Brian K9LCQ moved to adjourn, and Al KC9IJJ seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

*Respectively submitted
Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC*

General Meeting Minutes

January 29th, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM 8:30 PM.

The minutes were read. There were no corrections, so Al KC9IJJ moved to accept, and Joe N9UX seconded. The motion passed. Mark AB9CD read the treasurer's reports for November and December. He noted changes in phone bill expenses, and read part of a memo he had written regarding Field Day 2008 catering and accounting. He reiterated his desire for a financial review -- two members have volunteered to help, but another individual would be welcome. Brian K9LCQ asked if holding a review at the switchover of treasurers would be better, but Mark AB9CD stated his preference for an annual review. Al KC9IJJ moved to accept November's report, seconded by Brian K9LCQ. The motion passed. Brian K9LCQ then moved to accept December's report, and Mike KC9CMT seconded. The motion passed.

Following Buzz Talk, Howard AB9FH thanked Brian K9LCQ for his work on January's newsletter. He also thanked Tom WI9TOM, Jack W9ULA and Al KC9IJJ for donating to defray the expenses of the canceled Christmas party. This year more info will be made available sooner in hopes of avoiding a recurrence of this event.

Jerry KA9AJF announced that the Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club will be holding an Extra study course, and had information available for those interested.

Superfest at AES is on April 3rd-4th this year. The club will have a table there, and will need volunteers to man it.

Joe N9UX moved to adjourn, and Al KC9IJJ seconded. The motion passed unopposed, and the meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

*Respectively submitted
Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC*

Repeater Report

For the month of January the repeater was working to expectations. There were no downtimes.

Refreshments

The refreshments for the January meeting were handled by Mike, KC9CMT, many thanks to Mike for stepping forward and handling this task.

Last Chatter by USPS?

Will this be the last Chatter distributed by the United States Postal Service? A member suggested discontinuing mailing the Chatter. The board has discussed this issue and is divided. Let your board know your feelings on this issue.

New Board Member

We have a new board member, Dave Schank, KA9WXN. Dave graciously stepped forward and offered to fill one of the remaining open director positions, his term will expire in 2010. Thanks so much Dave for stepping forward to fill this important position!

May Elections

It is nearing that time of the year when we need to think about the upcoming club elections. This being an odd year, 3 director positions will expire. Al, KC9IJJ, Brian, K9LCQ and the current vacant position. We will need three people to be nominated and run for the director positions. If you have concerns on the direction the Board of Directors are handling the club business, now is an excellent time to take a leadership position step forward and finish out the vacant term. You can "try it before you buy it." Nominations will be taken at the April meeting for all three positions.

FM Simplex Contest

Get those FM Simplex Contest Logs In!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the FM simplex contest, hopefully everyone had a great time! Temperatures were 35 degrees warmer than last year! There was some unique activity this year, with stations in grids EN64 (to the north of Milwaukee and EN61 (south of Chicago) on the air. In addition, there were several stations operating from "high up" locations, KA9WXN and KX9M, great creativity shown by these operators.

While you are still thinking about it, please send in your log, and who knows, you may end up with a certificate!

If anyone has questions about the contest, or needs help with their score sheet, please email me at n9ux@arrl.net.

Thanks! -- Joe, N9UX

Wisconsin QSO Party

What is the Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP)? It is a contest where hams try and contact as many other hams as possible during the seven hour event. It is patterned after similar events held in other states. The WIQP rules differ for stations within Wisconsin versus stations outside of the state. Stations located in Wisconsin can contact stations anywhere for credit ("QSO points") while stations outside of the state only work Wisconsin stations. Each of the 72 counties in Wisconsin counts as a score "multiplier" and for in-state participants other US states and Canadian provinces are multipliers as well. The exchange is your county if in Wisconsin and your state/province if outside. So the basic idea is to contact and accurately log as many stations as possible in as many different counties/states/provinces as possible. For more information I have included a link to the West Allis Radio Amateurs' Club.

<http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>

*Editors Note: The WISCONSIN QSO Party will be March 15th from 1800Z to 0100Z
March 16th 2009 (1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM CDT)*

WARAC Swapfest?

An email was sent out to all the members of the MRAC-W9RH Yahoo group membership asking for someone who attended the WARAC Swapfest to submit a review of the fest, no one responded. Therefore, there will be no review in the Chatter.

AES Superfest

We are looking for a few good club members to help staff the club table at Superfest. Contact Mike, KC9MCT as the Superfest coordinator to

volunteer! And no, you don't have to be there all day... scheduling as little as an hour or two will be appreciated. Thank you Mike for heading up this effort.

HOURS:

Friday, April 3rd
2:00 PM to 6:00PM

Saturday, April 4th
8:30 AM to 3:00PM

Field Day

Field Day is only 4 months away. June 27th & 28th at Pioneer Village. Setup will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday the 27th. Tear down will start at 1:00 PM on Sunday. All club members and their guests are encouraged to attend. This is also the club picnic. So come on out and enjoy a relaxed day with fellow club members and a day of amateur radio.

Next Regular Meeting

The next membership meeting will be February 26th at 7:00PM. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. The program will be given by Dave Schank, KA9WXN, who will talk on D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio).

Please do not call the church for information!

VE Testing

Saturday, February 28th
AES – 9:30AM

Saturday, April 4th
SUPERFEST – 9:00AM

Saturday, April 25th
AES – 9:30AM

Saturday, May 30th

AES – 9:30AM

Saturday, July 25th

AES – 9:30AM

AES / SUPERFEST

Amateur Electronic Supply
5720 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53223

Vice-President – Brian, KC9HEK

Secretary – Sarah, KB9ZNC

Treasurer – Mark, AB9CD

Director – Dave, WB9BWP

Director – Dave, KA9WXN

Terms Expire in 2009

Director – Al, KC9IJJ

Director – Brian, K9LCQ

Director – Open

Local SwapFests

March 15th,

Hamfest 2009

Tri-County ARC (W9MQB)

Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center

<http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc>

Talk-In: 145.49MHz – offset (PL 123.0)

April 3rd & 4th

Superfest 2009

AES Milwaukee

<http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml>

Talk-In: 145.130MHz – offset (PL 127.3)

May 2nd

Spring Swapfest

Ozaukee Radio Club

Circle B Recreation Center

<http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>

Talk-In: 146.970MHz – offset (PL 127.3)

Working Committees

Field Day

- Mark AB9CD

FM Simplex Contest

- Sherm – KB9Q
- Joe – N9UX
- Jeff – K9VS
- Mark – AB9CD
- Brian – K9LCQ

Editor's Note: Sherm was accidentally left off the FM Simplex Contest list in the January Chatter. This was my error and unintentional!

Ticket drum and drawing

- Tom – N9UFJ
- Jackie – No call

Newsletter Editor – Open

Webmaster – Open

Refreshments – Open

NETS

Our Six Meter SSB net is Thursday @ 8:00PM at 50.160 MHz USB

Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00PM at 28.490 MHz ± 5 KHz USB.

Our Two Meter FM net follows at 9:00PM on our repeater at 145.390MHz – offset (PL 127.3)

Officers and Directors

Terms Expire 2010

President – Howard, AB9FH

Membership Information

The Hamateur Chatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1st. MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November when Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday when the meeting moves forward 1 week to the 3rd Thursday and December, when the Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Club Contact Information

Our website address:
<http://www.w9rh.org>.

Telephone
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Email may be sent to w9rh@arrl.net

Our YAHOO newsgroup:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRAC-W9RH/>

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Member Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code